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GETTY IMAGES

GLORIA VANDERBILT (1924-2019)

The fashion icon died Monday at age 95. 2

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8 THINGS TO KNOW

Fashion icon, socialite Gloria Vanderbilt dead at 95

Her death was confirmed by her son, CNN anchor Anderson Cooper.

CNN anchor Anderson Cooper with his mother, Gloria Vanderbilt, who died Monday. GETTY IMAGES

Gloria Vanderbilt, the "poor little rich girl" who lived a life at the highest levels of fashion, society and wealth as an heir to one of the greatest family fortunes in U.S. history, died on Monday at the age of 95, her son, CNN correspondent Anderson Cooper, said.

Vanderbilt became a fashion icon in the 1970s with an eponymous line of tight-fitting blue jeans that bore her signature and trademark swan logo. They were a must-have for any woman with aspirations to style.

Vanderbilt wrote that as a girl she had considered becoming a nun, which would have been an incredible loss to the chroniclers of high society, celebrity and tumult. Instead of a nunnery, she went on to a life that could have provided story lines for dozens of soap operas, romance novels, Broadway musicals and tear-jerker movies.

Vanderbilt was born into wealth on Feb. 20, 1924, in New York City. She was the great-great-granddaughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt, the 19th-century railroad and shipping magnate who amassed one of the greatest fortunes of the time.

She was not yet 2 years old when her father, Reginald Claypoole Vanderbilt, died and she spent many of the following years living in Europe with her mother, Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt, on her trust fund, which was estimated at $2.5 million — the equivalent of at least $33 million today.

Gloria's aunt, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, who founded the Whitney Museum of American Art, said Gloria's mother was misusing the trust fund on a free-wheeling lifestyle that included a female lover, and went to court. Whitney won custody of the child in an acrimonious, sensationalized case that eventually reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

The custody battle featured high-society character witnesses for both sides and testimony so sensitive that courtroom spectators were barred at times. The public closely followed the fate of "Little Gloria," who was protected at the time by 12 bodyguards.

Whitney eventually won custody of Gloria with one judge reproaching the girl's mother for living a lifestyle that was "calculated to destroy her health and neglectful of her moral, spiritual and mental education."

Vanderbilt said being taken from her mother started her on a lifelong quest for love and approval. This led her to marry a 32-year-old Hollywood agent, Pat DiCicco, when she was only 17. They divorced in 1945, when at the age of 21, Vanderbilt married conductor Leopold Stokowski, who was 63.

The couple had two sons and by the time they separated in 1955, Vanderbilt was being seen around New York with singer Frank Sinatra. After another divorce, Vanderbilt found herself in another custody fight — this time with Stokowski claiming that she was an unfit mother who spent too much time in psychotherapy.

From 1956 to 1963, Vanderbilt was married to Sidney Lumet, director of the acclaimed films "12 Angry Men," "Dog Day Afternoon," "Serpico" and "Network."

She was married to her fourth husband, writer Wyatt Cooper, until his death during heart surgery in 1978. They had two sons, Anderson and Carter.

In 1988, in the greatest tragedy of Vanderbilt's life, Carter, aged 23, killed himself by jumping from the family's 14th-floor apartment in New York, in spite of his mother's attempts to stop him.

She later wrote a memoir, "A Mother's Story," in which she reflected on her own painful upbringing and blamed Carter's suicide on psychosis brought on by an anti-asthma drug.

Vanderbilt called her son's death "the final loss, the fatal loss that stripped me bare," and said she did not think she could survive it.

In a 2012 television interview with her son Anderson, she said she thought about the tragedy every day and that she had considered jumping after her son.

"There was a moment when I thought I was going to jump after him but then I thought of you ... and it stopped me from doing that," she told Anderson. REUTERS

Megadeth's Mustaine diagnosed with throat cancer

2 Dave Mustaine, lead singer and guitarist for the heavy metal band Megadeth, has been diagnosed with throat cancer, forcing the band to cancel most of its 2019 shows, he said on Monday. Megadeth had been scheduled to perform this year in Milwaukee, Las Vegas, Buenos Aires and other cities in North and South America. "I'm working closely with my doctors, and we've mapped out a treatment plan which they feel has a 90 percent success rate," Mustaine said in a statement on Facebook. "Treatment has already begun." Megadeth, which was formed in 1983 and helped pioneer a style called thrash metal, reached the height of its popularity in the late 1980s and 1990s with albums such as "Countdown to Extinction" and "Youthanasia." Mustaine is known for his shredding, a fast style of rock lead guitar playing. REUTERS

US to add troops to Middle East as Iran plans breach

3 Iran said on Monday it would soon breach limits on how much enriched uranium it can stockpile under a 2015 agreement rejected by the United States, in a new point of contention with Washington which accused Tehran of "nuclear blackmail." Tensions between Iran and the U.S. are rising more than a year after President Donald Trump announced Washington was withdrawing from the nuclear deal. Fears of a confrontation have mounted since last Thursday, when two oil tankers in the Gulf were attacked. The U.S. military on Monday released images that it says show Iran's Revolutionary Guard removing an unexploded limpet mine from one of the tankers. Two U.S. officials speaking on condition of anonymity told Reuters on Monday it's preparing to send additional troops to the Middle East in response to mounting concerns over Iran. REUTERS

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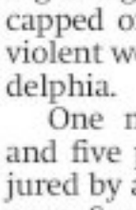
ISTOCK IMAGES

1 Killed, 5 injured in graduation party shooting

Gun-related homicide is up by 5 percent this year in Philly.



NATE HOMAN
letters@metro.us

A Sunday night shooting at a graduation party capped off an extremely violent weekend in Philadelphia.

One man was killed and five people were injured by a hail of gunfire near South 70th Street and Reed Bird Place at a graduation party with about 60 people in attendance at about 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, according to The Associated Press.

Police said 24-year-old Isiaka Meite was shot in the back and died at a hospital.

Three teenage boys ranging in age from 15 to 17 and a 16-year-old girl were all shot in the legs or ankles and were listed in stable condition, the AP reported. A 21-year-old man was shot in his elbow and was also stable.

Police Commissioner Richard Ross told the Inquirer on Monday that the gunman emerged from a group of three men hanging out in a parking lot and opened fire, striking six people. Ross said whoever was behind the shooting knew there would be a party and the intended target would likely be there.

The suspect remained at large as of Monday afternoon.

Between the early hours of Saturday morning and the graduation party shooting on Sunday evening, there were 19 reported shootings with 28 victims and five deaths spread across town, according to the Inquirer.

Nearly 90 percent of the homicides in Philadelphia since January have been committed with guns, about 5 percent higher than in previous years. The total homicide rate has gone up 8 percent from 2017, reaching a body count of 146.

Last month, Police Commissioner Ross called that statistic "alarming." He said he planned to put more cops on the street this summer.

Police have not released a motive, suspect or arrest in any of the cases, and are imploring the public to help in these investigations.

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REUTERS

Raptors' NBA victory parade marred by shooting

Two people were seriously hurt at the parade attended by Drake and PM Justin Trudeau.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and some 2 million other fans cheered the NBA champion Toronto Raptors on Monday in a victory celebration that united the nation, but the party was marred by a shooting that seriously wounded two people.

Five double-decker buses that carried the players and their families moved along the parade route at a snail's pace due to the massive crowd, as players including Kawhi Leonard, who was named most valuable player of the NBA Finals, sprayed champagne on the fans.

The Canadian musician Drake, one of the team's most prominent and outspoken fans, earned a place on one of the buses.

The convoy arrived nearly two hours behind schedule near Toronto's City Hall, where the team was greeted on a stage by Trudeau and other dignitaries.

The shooting interrupted an otherwise peaceful, six-hour bash that only began to clear out in the late afternoon. Two people were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, Toronto police said on Twitter. Two also were taken into custody and two firearms were recovered, police said. An investigation is ongoing.

The shots were fired near Nathan Phillips Square, the parade's final destination, during the victory speeches, causing hundreds of people to scatter for cover. However, it caused only a brief pause in the celebrations.

Canadians from coast to coast and all the way up to the Arctic have been celebrating since the Toronto Raptors captured their first National Basketball Association championship in a country that is traditionally known for its love of ice hockey.

The Raptors clinched the best-of-seven series in Oakland, California, on Thursday in six games by beating the defending champion Golden State Warriors, 114-110, giving rise to a nationwide love affair with basketball.

CANADIAN SPORTING HISTORY

The Raptors' victory is the first major professional sports championship for a Canada-based team since Major League Baseball's Toronto Blue Jays won the World Series in 1993. Toronto has been waiting for its beloved Maple Leafs to win the NHL championship since its last Stanley Cup victory in 1967.

"It's the culmination of playing for 24 years. We've been waiting a long time for this," said Raptors fan Chris Rogers.

Rogers, 34, who has rooted for the Raptors since they entered the league in 1995, was dressed in a jersey of Raptors guard Kyle Lowry. He had been waiting since morning to watch the parade.

Rogers said his workplace was fully supportive of him being out of the office as they believed the parade was important.

About 2 million fans stood by to celebrate and catch a glimpse of the winners, according to Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, which owns the Raptors.

Streets were closed off to accommodate the convoy, and three subway stations were also closed due to overcrowding on the street level. Enthusiastic fans festooned the streets of Toronto wearing Raptors red, purple, black and white. REUTERS

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Central American migrants. REUTERS

As promised, Trump slashes aid to Central America over migrants

President Donald Trump's administration on Monday cut hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, after Trump blasted the three countries because thousands of their citizens had sought asylum at the U.S. border with Mexico.

The plan will likely encounter stiff opposition in Congress.

Lawmakers, including some of Trump's fellow Republicans as well as Democrats, have chafed against the president's repeated decisions to disregard spending bills passed by Congress, some of which he has signed into law himself.

Lawmakers who opposed the plan said it was cruel to cut off aid to countries grappling with hunger and crime and that the move would be counterproductive because it would more likely increase the number of migrants than decrease it.

Congressional aides said the administration told them it would reallocate $370 million in aid to Central America that lawmakers had approved for fiscal 2018, and suspend an additional $180 million Congress had approved for fiscal 2017.

All of the money for those years has not yet been spent.

The administration said in March it would cut aid to the three countries after Trump expressed unhappiness with their immigration policies.

No funds will be provided until the administration is satisfied the countries are reducing the number of migrants reaching the U.S. border, State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus told reporters.

> **"This is consistent with the president's direction and with the recognition that it is critical that there be sufficient political will in these countries to address the problem at its source."**
> Morgan Ortagus, State Department spokeswoman

"This is consistent with the president's direction and with the recognition that it is critical that there be sufficient political will in these countries to address the problem at its source," she said.

Without elaborating, she added: "Working with Congress, we will reprogram those funds to other priorities as appropriate."

A U.S. official, with knowledge of plans, said the administration would review the funding by April 2020. REUTERS

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Kyle Kashuv addressing the 148th NRA annual meeting in Indianapolis. GETTY IMAGES

Harvard revokes Parkland shooting survivor's acceptance over racial slurs

Kyle Kashuv immediately apologized to the university, but was still denied.

Harvard University has rescinded its admission offer to a survivor of the 2018 massacre at a Florida high school over his past use of racial slurs in an online document posted on Twitter, the student said on Monday.

The student, Kyle Kashuv, was a junior at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, when a gunman opened fire in February 2018 and killed 17 students and staff. He became the target of online criticism last month after images of a shared study guide from more than a year ago circulated on Twitter, showing he wrote anti-black slurs.

"A few weeks ago, I was made aware of egregious and callous comments classmates and I made privately years ago — when I was 16 years old, months before the shooting — in an attempt to be as extreme and shocking as possible. I immediately apologized," Kashuv wrote on Twitter on Monday.

Kashuv said on Twitter that he had submitted a written apology to Harvard after the school contacted him asking him to explain the statements he made in the Google document. In response, he said, he received a letter from the admissions dean saying that his acceptance had been revoked.

"The Committee takes seriously the qualities of maturity and moral character. After careful consideration the Committee voted to rescind your admission to Harvard College," Harvard Admissions Dean William Fitzsimmons wrote to Kashuv on June 3, according to a copy of the letter that Kashuv posted on Twitter.

A representative for Harvard declined to comment on the matter, citing a policy to not comment publicly on the admission status of individual applicants.

Tweet
Kyle Kashuv
@KyleKashuv
Harvard rescinded my acceptance. Three months after being admitted to Harvard Class of 2023, Harvard has decided to rescind my admission over texts and comments made nearly two years ago, months prior to the shooting.

Kashuv, who distinguished himself from other Parkland students as a gun-rights advocate after the school shooting, said on Twitter that he had requested to meet with the admissions committee to discuss the matter in person, but Harvard denied his request. REUTERS

REUTERS

Ruling tossed against Oregon bakers who rebuffed lesbians

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday threw out a lower court ruling against the owners of an Oregon bakery who refused based on their Christian beliefs to make a wedding cake for a lesbian couple in another case pitting gay rights against religious rights.

The justices in a brief order sent the case back to an Oregon court so it can reconsider its 2017 ruling upholding the state's $135,000 penalty against the bakery owners for violating an Oregon anti-discrimination law in light of the Supreme Court's 2018 decision in a strikingly similar case from Colorado. The justices, sidestepping a major ruling on the divisive legal issues raised by the case, did not issue a written opinion and there was no publicly recorded vote.

The state court will have to come up with a new decision and potentially could rule against the bakery owners, Melissa and Aaron Klein, a second time even after taking into consideration last year's Supreme Court decision in favor of a Denver-area Christian baker who had refused to make a wedding cake for two gay men.

The Kleins argued that the state fine violated the their rights of free speech and free exercise of religion under the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment. The Kleins ran a bakery called Sweetcakes by Melissa in Gresham, a city just east of Portland, and were hit with the state fine after spurning the couple, Rachel Bowman-Cryer and Laurel Bowman-Cryer.

Kelly Shackelford, president of the conservative legal group First Liberty Institute, which represents the Kleins, characterized the court's action as a victory for his clients.

> **"The Constitution protects speech, popular or not, from condemnation by the government. The message from the court is clear: Government hostility toward religious Americans will not be tolerated."**
>
> Kelly Shackelford, president of conservative legal group First Liberty Institute

"The Constitution protects speech, popular or not, from condemnation by the government. The message from the court is clear: Government hostility toward religious Americans will not be tolerated," Shackelford said.

Jennifer Pizer, a lawyer with Lambda Legal, a gay rights legal group, said she was disappointed the court did not leave the state court ruling intact.

"It is a longstanding legal rule that the freedom of religion is not a license for businesses to discriminate, and this is one more case about a wedding cake in which an anti-gay business owner is trying to use religious beliefs to excuse denying commercial services to a lesbian couple," Pizer said.

The 7-2 Supreme Court ruling on narrow legal grounds in favor of the Colorado baker in June 2018 left unresolved the bigger question of whether certain businesses can claim religious exemptions from anti-discrimination laws.

The justices will have another chance to weigh in on the broader questions in the coming months when they consider whether to hear an appeal by a Washington state florist who refused to sell a gay couple flowers for their wedding. The Washington Supreme Court on June 6 ruled against the florist.

"AN ABOMINATION"

The Oregon cake dispute began in 2013 when Aaron Klein told Rachel Bowman-Cryer and her mother, Cheryl McPherson, that Sweetcakes did not make cakes for same-sex weddings for religious reasons.

The Kleins had previously made a cake at the request of the same lesbian couple for McPherson's previous heterosexual wedding. The lesbian couple, who married in 2014 and have two children, said they wanted to order the exact same cake. REUTERS

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More severe storms likely for Philadelphia area

Rain is headed to the region. Again.

NATE HOMAN
letters@metro.us

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The wild weather that has hammered the Philadelphia area is about to continue as more turbulence is expected this week.

There are several severe storm warnings throughout the next few days. Heavy rains are expected Tuesday, and the volatile conditions will linger until Thursday.

In between storms, the days will be hot and humid.

The National Weather Service predicts showers and thunderstorms likely after 8 a.m., with a high near 84.

Wednesday could bring a quarter-inch of rain and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82 and variable winds.

The same forecast will hold into Wednesday night, with precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, with higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Thursday will offer a chance of showers early, then showers "likely" and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Philly can expect lots of clouds and a high near 84.

Thankfully, Friday looks like the beginning of the end of this batch of bad weather, with a partly sunny day in store and a high near 83. The weekend should be sunny and warm, so hang in there.

Mother Nature has been dumping on the Philly area since May. High winds and rain have been a regular experience for the region for the past few months, with no long-term end in sight.

According to Weather.gov, flooding may become more of a problem with time across the area should repeated rounds of storms affect the area.

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Aries Knowledge you have accumulated will help you maneuver into a position that will give you more power or responsibility. Be sure it's what you want before you accept. Romance is highlighted.

Taurus An incident will stir up emotions. Consider what you want to happen and look for a practical way to get what you want. Put a proposal together and schedule meetings.

Gemini Trust what you see, not what you hear. Take a step back if someone wants you to take on an expensive habit or get involved in something you cannot afford.

Cancer If you look for change, you'll find something that suits your needs. Greater involvement in making the rules will help you control a situation that could affect your community.

Leo Stop worrying about what others do or say, and concentrate on what you want to achieve. Alter your life for the right reasons, not because someone else is pressuring you.

Virgo You can be a leader, a follower or simply do your own thing. You have a choice, and it's up to you to step up and do what's in your best interest.

Libra If you research your family history, you will discover surprising information that will alter your beliefs and the choices you make.

Scorpio Jump at a chance to head in a different direction. Whether it's a geographical, vocational or personal change, let your intuition guide you. Satisfy your curiosity.

Sagittarius Keep a low profile and a sharp watch. Someone you least expect will misrepresent you or create a dilemma that will make you look bad. Don't give anyone reason to talk about you.

Capricorn You can win points if you are willing to meet someone halfway about some of the changes taking place at home or in your personal life.

Aquarius Look for modest opportunities. It doesn't matter how good a deal sounds; if it doesn't fit your lifestyle or budget, it isn't going to be worthwhile.

Pisces Do what you do best and avoid anyone trying to entice you to be indulgent or wasteful. Call on someone you have helped in the past to assist you.

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Sweets, treats and more eats

Old City Eats kicks off this Thursday with an exciting outdoor block party.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Old City is a fantastic part of Philly to hang out in during the summer season. It's right by the water, features amazing outdoor spaces and is also home to one of the best seasonal happy hours in the city, Old City Eats. Old City Eats will happen every Thursday throughout the summer until August 29, and over 50 top spots are serving up enticing choices that will please anyone's palette. Choices for the series feature half-priced appetizers, $4 beers and $5 cocktails from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. It all starts this Thursday, June 20, with an incredibly colorful and upbeat Old City Eats block party to officially kick off the delicious occasion.

The block party this Thursday will highlight some of the mouthwatering options from spots featured in this summer's Old City Eats series. Tapas hot spot Amada will be serving up an enticing Spanish cheesecake and a vodka cocktail. Bleu Martini will be featuring Cajun shrimp cornbread and cheesesteak egg rolls along with their mojito and beer selection. Farmica will serve their mouthwatering meatballs and Voodoo tequila cocktail. Franklin Fountain will provide delightful ice cream creations. Makhani Modern Indian will highlight some of their tasty bites including their signature samosas and mango beverages. Nauti Mermaid Crab House & Piano Bar will showcase their delicious crab cakes and specialty cocktails. And Rebel Taco will be serving a selection of enticing tacos and their house margarita. There will be other spots offering more variety of small bites and drink samples at the block party as well, to give a bigger picture on what to expect for the Old City Eats series this summer.

While getting pumped for the mouthwatering series this Thursday with all of the samples, guests can also enjoy live music throughout this colorful block party. According to the release, Philadelphians can check out Irish tunes at the Plough & the Stars, and DJ Decybals joined by dancers from Algo-Rhythm Studio at Cuba Libre Restaurant & Rum Bar. Plus, Nauti Mermaid Crab House & Piano Bar will bring dueling pianos for some lively and interactive singalongs.

Throughout the rest of the season, any Philadelphian can head to the historic area of the city during the happy hour to get a taste of all of the enticing cuisine Old City has to offer.

"Our focus for Old City Eats is spotlighting the neighborhood's impressive and evolving list of dining options," said Old City District Executive Director Job Itzkowitz in a release. "With more than 40 restaurants and bars participating, there's something to appeal to every palette, including Italian, Cuban, French, Mexican, Peruvian, British and other global cuisines. We have as diverse a culinary scene as anywhere in the city! Whether you visit an old favorite or experience something new, Old City Eats will take you on a culinary journey that will last all summer long."

Stephen Starr hot spot Buddakan will offer their famous edamame dumplings and specialty rum cocktail for the series. Glory Beer Bar & Kitchen will serve up their roasted mushroom mac and cheese with black truffle along with a rotating list of libations. National Mechanics will highlight their plantain chips and guacamole along with their strawberry daiquiri. The Olde Bar will feature their shrimp salad roll along with a gin cocktail and beer selection. Tomo Sushi & Ramen will showcase their Alaskan hand roll and spicy vegan tuna hand roll. Scoop Deville will serve up a specialty scoop selection of premium small-batch homemade ice cream. And TAPS Fill Station in The Bourse will offer wings along with craft beer and wine.

So this summer, bring the whole family or rally a group of friends together and head to Old City every Thursday to taste some of the most unique, satisfying and delicious cuisines the City of Brotherly Love has to offer.

A full list of participating spots and their menus is available at oldcitydistrict.org. Old City Eats will run every Thursday until August 29 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The block party will take place June 20 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on 2nd Street between Market and Chestnut streets.

A sweet treat from the Old City Eats block party.

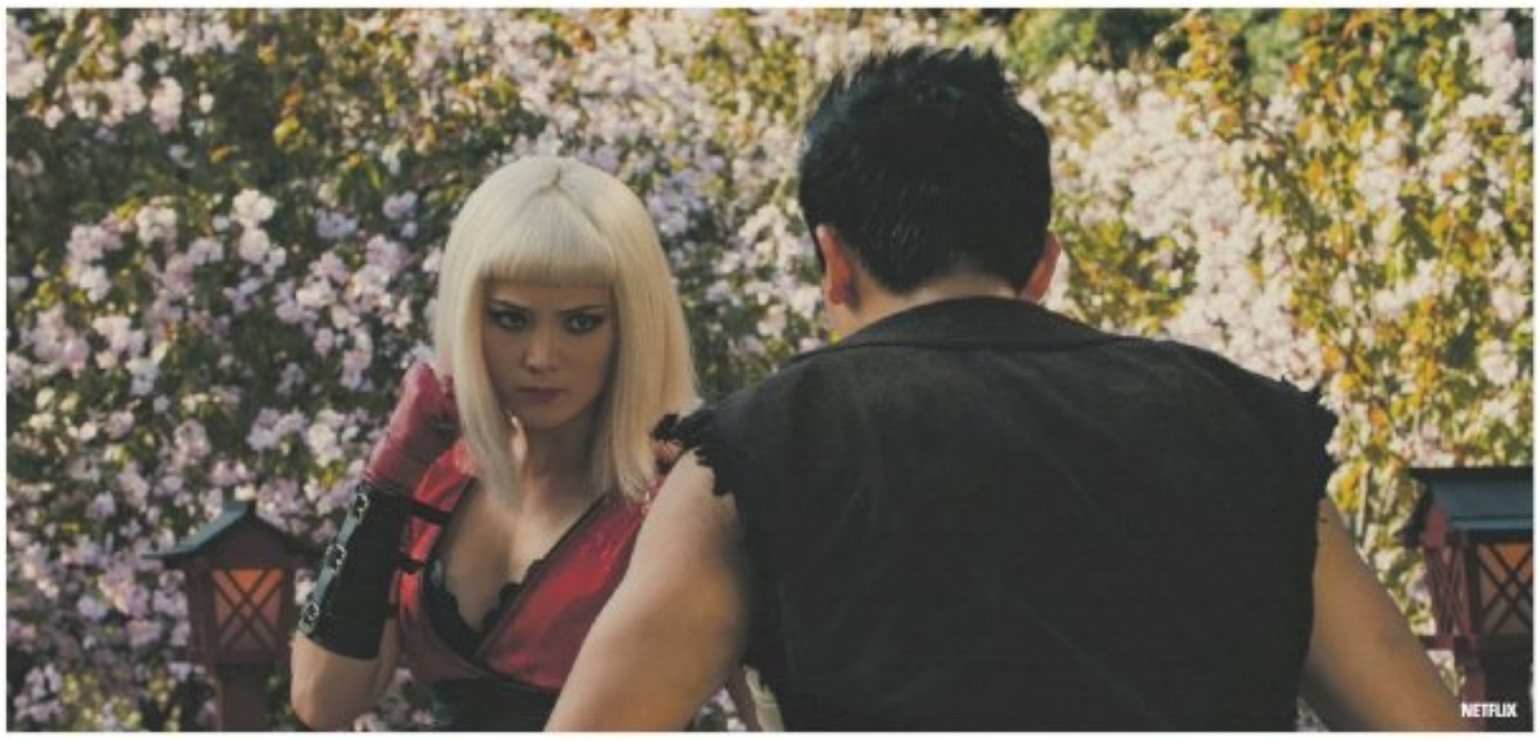
Head to the block party to sample some treats this week.

Edamame dumplings from Buddakan.

The screen goes blank on *'Black Mirror'* season 5

We took the time to unpack the newest — and weak — installment of the once-chilling and -vital satire.

JAMES CASE
letters@metro.us



"Black Mirror" has long faced comparisons to the seminal show "The Twilight Zone." Both are anthologies focused on twisty and unexpected plots. In many ways, it's unfair to compare "Black Mirror" to "The Twilight Zone"; instead, it's accurate to see "Black Mirror" as the spiritual descendant.

However, as initial episodes showed great narrative promise, further episodes exposed repetitive, paper-thin plots and hammy dialogue. Applying an overlay of "technology is bad," it turns out, doesn't make for compelling television. Just because a writer has a perspective doesn't mean the writer has any insight. "The Twilight Zone" churned out 154 episodes in its initial run. "Black Mirror" has churned out 24 narratives and it's clearly pretty well out of ideas.

It's not that the three stories aren't interesting concepts in their own right. It's that none of them really seem to know what they're doing and why they exist. It's as though they've (for the most part) tossed out the technology-is-bad rule on the whiteboard and changed it to "technology is '?'" and left it at that.

The first episode, "Striking Vipers," explores the source of passion for two men who are living "very different lives" because one has a family and one is single — somehow, there's an unreachable cultural chasm. And while there are genuinely touching moments, and considerate ruminations on the benefits of transhumanist concerns, there's also a generous tone of homophobia excused as a character arc. It's basically a riff on the sentimentality the show created in the past episode, "San Junipero," and hopes to capture that same feeling. It's not a bad thing. It just feels familiar.

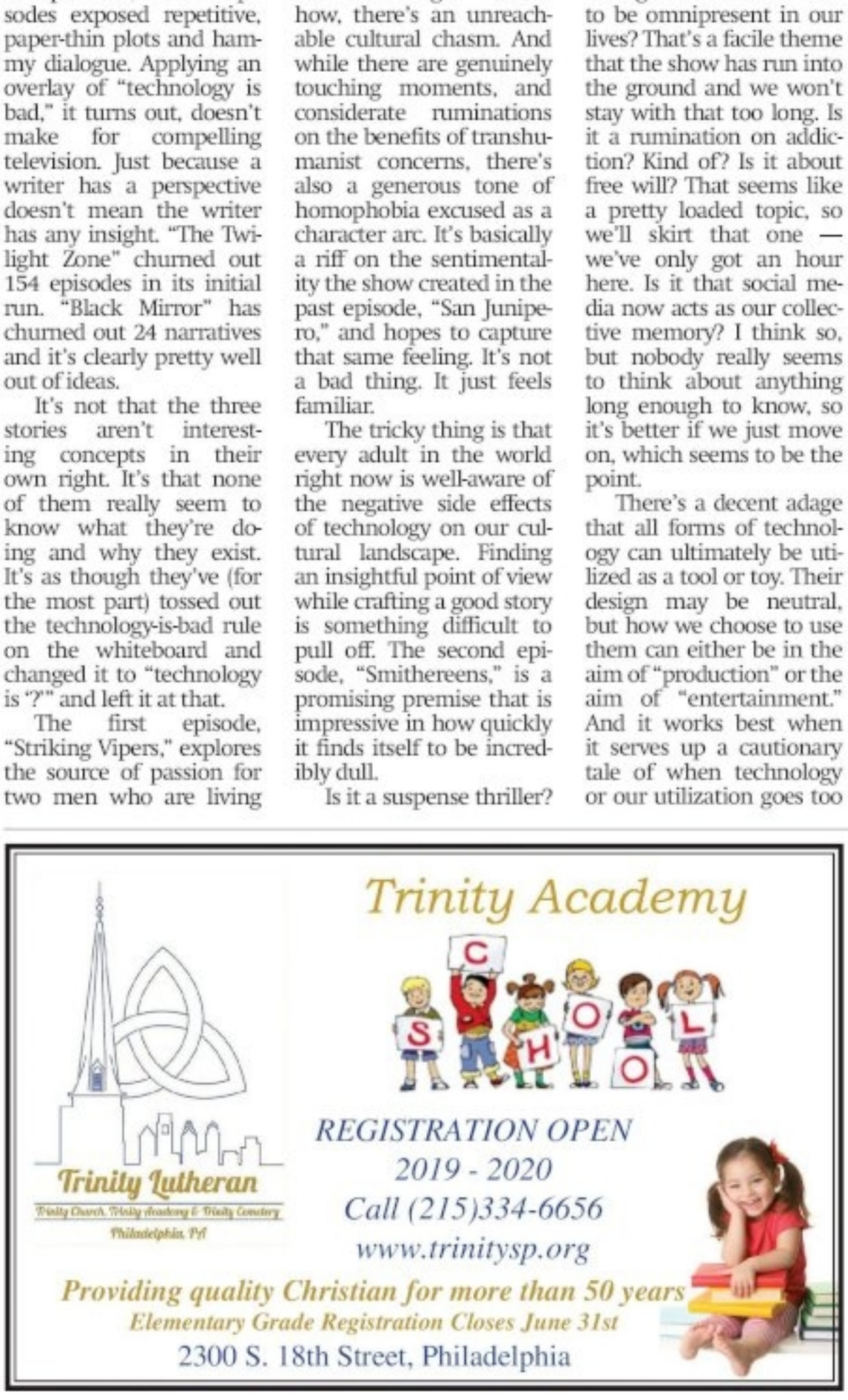
The tricky thing is that every adult in the world right now is well-aware of the negative side effects of technology on our cultural landscape. Finding an insightful point of view while crafting a good story is something difficult to pull off. The second episode, "Smithereens," is a promising premise that is impressive in how quickly it finds itself to be incredibly dull.

Is it a suspense thriller? It finds a way to be suspenseless. Is it a critique of tech giants and their aim to be omnipresent in our lives? That's a facile theme that the show has run into the ground and we won't stay with that too long. Is it a rumination on addiction? Kind of? Is it about free will? That seems like a pretty loaded topic, so we'll skirt that one — we've only got an hour here. Is it that social media now acts as our collective memory? I think so, but nobody really seems to think about anything long enough to know, so it's better if we just move on, which seems to be the point.

There's a decent adage that all forms of technology can ultimately be utilized as a tool or toy. Their design may be neutral, but how we choose to use them can either be in the aim of "production" or the aim of "entertainment." And it works best when it serves up a cautionary tale of when technology or our utilization goes too far on either end of that spectrum. The problem is that all of these episodes are stuck in neutral.

It's acceptable for a show like "Black Mirror" to be implausible or to ask you to really use your willful suspension of disbelief, but the degree to which the third episode, "Rachel, Jack and Ashley Too," asks us to go without much of any return is a bit of a violation of the audience's viewing compact. This one is plagued with the same identity problems as the second one but with an even more painful third act. This fatuous exercise finds a way to want to be a teen movie, buddy-cop movie, an extended princess-in-the-tower trope, and a family drama. Also, one of the characters' minds has been replicated inside of a miniature robot, which, I guess it's funny to see a little robot casually swear if you're using your imagination for the first time. There's a moment at the end when the pop princess has gone punk, and we have a painful visit to what an actual living, breathing adult thinks a "rock show" is like in 2019. It's hard not to hide or run out of the room. In a knife twist, the little robot is now "punk AF," and literally has a little anarchy symbol stuck onto its chest.

This nod to co-opted culture is perfectly symptomatic of what "Black Mirror" is in 2019: narratively co-opted, pandering to its audience without realizing that it's entirely out of touch. What was once a challenging and interesting friend is now the person at the bar who can't stop saying embarrassing things, and has too much time on their hands and doesn't use it wisely.



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National Martini Day is this Wednesday.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Head to the Twisted Tail for National Martini Day.

ALL IMAGES PUNCH MEDIA

This Wednesday marks a special day for all libation lovers. National Martini Day is officially June 19, and the City of Brotherly Love takes the spirited drink very seriously. Whether you're a gin or vodka fan, dry or dirty drinker or garnish snob, Philly has the perfect option for you.

The Twisted Tail

Head to this Society Hill hot spot to indulge in their classic gin martini for National Martini Day this Wednesday. The Twisted Tail's martini features Dolin Blanc gin and a refreshing lemon twist, and will be available all day for $14. Pair the drink with one of The Twisted Tail's Southern comfort-style dishes to truly treat yourself. *509 S. 2nd St., thetwistedtail.com*

The Royal Boucherie

The Royal Boucherie is very familiar with martinis. This Old City hot spot offers an enticing selection of the spirited cocktail every day with their popular $2 martini lunch special. Any Philadelphian who heads to the Boucherie and orders a lunchtime entree can indulge in the drink for the discounted price. Options include a classic martini, French martini and Gibson martini. Order one of the tasty drinks with one of Royal Boucherie's enticing lunch menu selections including their Boucherie Burger ($18) featuring bacon, American cheese, truffle mayo, a half-sour pickle and pork-fat fries, or their quiche ($15) featuring kale, gruyere, fine herbs and bacon. *52 S. 2nd St., royalboucherie.com*

Co-Op Restaurant and Lounge

Co-Op is taking National Martini Day to the next level with their delightful Tipsy Farmer martini. The Tipsy Farmer is made with Plymouth gin, elderflower tonic and lemon shrub and will be shaken up all day this Wednesday for only $13. *20 S. 33rd St. #1, coopphilly.com*

The Chophouse

This New Jersey eatery knows how to make a good martini. They have a vast selection from gin and vodka to apple martinis, cosmopolitans and their signature martini with sweet pineapple-infused vodka. The Chophouse's enticing selection of libations are all offered for only $8 during their daily happy hour (4-7 p.m.). *4 Lakeview Dr. S., Gibbsboro, NJ, thechophouse.us*

Square 1682

Square 1682 knows how to make a martini, and for the tasty drink's national holiday they are pulling out all the stops. Head to this popular eatery during lunchtime this Wednesday (or any weekday) to enjoy their $3 martini selection. Philadelphians can choose a classic or dirty martini made with either vodka or gin and enjoy it with one of Square 1682's mouthwatering lunch menu options. Highlighted dishes include their hot turkey club ($15) featuring Benton's bacon, chipotle ranch and thick cut challah bread, or salt-roasted beets ($12) featuring honeycrisp apples, spicy pistachios, arugula and whipped feta. *121 S. 17th St., square1682.com*

Co-Op's Tipsy Farmer martini.

Royal Boucherie offers a $2 martini lunch special every weekday.

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Walter Parkes and Laurie MacDonald on their long journey to make *'Men in Black: International'*

"Men in Black" producers Walter Parkes and Laurie MacDonald were in no rush to make a fourth installment to the franchise.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

Tessa Thompson and Chris Hemsworth. SONY PICTURES

Everyone involved in the previous films, which starred Will Smith and grossed a combined total of $1.65 billion, felt the 2012 sci-fi comedy had brought the story to an end and had moved on. But Parkes and MacDonald had a germ of an idea for a new "Men in Black" film that had always intrigued them.

"We had this basic idea of a young girl who witnesses or has an experience with an alien and who spends the rest of her youth trying to find [the] 'men in black,' talks her way in, is paired with the wrong partner and realizes that there's more to the universe than science," Parkes recently told Metro over the phone.

However, the pair weren't able to get the script right. Which is when Phil Lord and Chris Miller approached the duo about crossing "Men in Black" with "21 Jump Street." The producers fully supported this plan, as they thought it "sounded fun." Once again, though, this crossover succumbed due to script problems.

"In retrospect, I don't think it was an accident," explains Parkes. "I think the two franchises are in some ways opposite. 'Men in Black' is about playing extraordinary situations in a sort of comically deadpan style, whereas 'Jump Street' is going after more mainstream-genre moments and then going way over the top with them."

With that version dead, MacDonald and Parkes returned to their original plan, and were relieved when Art Marcum and Matt Holloway delivered a script that they adored. But since this was a reboot, the duo were well aware that finding an actor to step into Will Smith's shoes was going to be incredibly difficult.

"It was so tough to find our H," admits MacDonald. "Because there are so few actors who can play the tough action, who have the physical prowess, a pure charisma and great comic instinct. There's not a long list."

Which is why it was such a relief when Chris Hemsworth, who was the first actor they approached for the role, immediately signed up. Casting Agent M was all set up to be just as difficult, too, but it became a lot easier when Parkes and MacDonald saw Tessa Thompson acting opposite Hemsworth in "Thor: Ragnarok" and were enchanted by their chemistry. Although, MacDonald is the first to admit they were a little concerned that pairing the two together again so quickly after "Ragnarok" might look a tad "unimaginative."

Thompson and Hemsworth aren't the only huge changes that "International" makes to the "Men in Black" franchise. As its title makes clear, the setting for the film has moved away from New York, and while Hemsworth and Thompson's agents are based in London, France, Italy and Morocco feature prominently, too.

"The idea of opening this up internationally has always in the back of our minds," says Parkes. "But it was quite liberating creatively, and I do think it also made the studio confident enough to green-light the movie. Because they felt it would hopefully appeal to this rapidly expanding global market."

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Sports betting 101: Avoiding mistakes

SugarHouse Casino's sportsbook manager dishes out the basics of sports betting.

JIM LLEWELLYN

Jim Llewellyn is the sportsbook manager at SugarHouse Casino.

You're not always going to win big when wagering on sports, but there are some precautionary measures you can take to increase your odds of victory. In the first part of our two-part breakdown, here are some common mistakes novice sports bettors and even veteran sharps often make.

GETTY IMAGES

Emotional betting

Betting with your heart is a trap for many sports bettors. The urge to bet on your favorite team because you are going to the game can be deadly. Pay attention to the odds and understand going in that you'll rarely get an edge by backing the home team. Don't let your emotions rule your decision-making. And if you can't bet against the home team, sit the game out.

Bankroll

Keeping track of your bankroll (known as the "BR" to experienced sports bettors) and establishing bet size guidelines are rare traits among sports bettors. Your bankroll is disposable income that is set aside for the purpose of betting, just like money you would spend playing a round of golf or going to the movies. It's money you can afford to lose, albeit money you don't want to lose. Once you establish the amount of your bankroll, set a bet size limit for each wager. Most successful bettors don't wager more than 5 percent of their total bankroll on any one game.

In Part Two, we'll focus on "chasing losses" and how to avoid this common mistake.

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Phillies vs. Nats, MLB game picks

With Zach Eflin (6-6, 2.81 ERA) facing off with the Nationals' Erick Fedde (1-1, 3.68 ERA), the Phillies should be a confident selection in the first five innings market.

Eflin has pitched to a 2.40 ERA and 1.111 WHIP in his last seven starts. He's dominated Washington in two meetings this year, going 2-0 with a 0.75 ERA and opponent batting average of .167 (12 innings). Fedde has struggled against these Philadelphia batters in previous outings, allowing a .405 average in 37 combined at-bats. Stand-outs include second baseman Cesar Hernandez (4-for-8), third baseman Maikel Franco (3-for-5) and utility man Scott Kingery (3-for-6). Fedde's SO/W ratio this season is a woeful 1.50.

That does not bode well against a Phillies lineup that's struck out the fourth-fewest times in June (101).

The play: Phillies first five innings

ROBERT CRISCOLA

Red Sox at Twins

The Twins are the best bet on the diamond tonight as they host the Red Sox. Michael Pineda (4-3, 5.04 ERA) starts for the Twins, and he's actually pitched much better than his 4.20 ERA would suggest as his WHIP is 1.008. Pineda's problem has been his .281 BAA against with runners in scoring position. Fortunately for him, Boston is a mediocre 12th in batting average in those key RBI spots this season.

The play: Twins moneyline

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Since Kevin Durant signed with the Golden State Warriors three years ago, every NBA season has begun with a narrative of, "Who is going to finish in second place?"

The Warriors were seen as unbeatable, and that was mostly the case until Durant went down with his injuries this spring.

There is still a whole hell of a lot to be decided in NBA free agency over the next month, but no matter what happens, there should be one of the most wide-open fields to win the title in pro basketball history at the start of the 2019-20 season.

Today, we'll take a look at the early, early, NBA Championship futures odds at **MetroBet.us/Sugar**.

Putting futures bets in early is always a good strategy, as bookmakers set most odds pretty low with such uncertainty.

Here are the current odds to win the NBA title at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** in June 2020. You can find them by going to the NBA tab in the left-hand column at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** and then scrolling all the way to the bottom, to June 13, 2020.

GETTY IMAGES

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If you bet $25 on the Sixers to win the 2020 title at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** right now and Joel Embiid and company come through a year from now, you would win $250 with a payout of $275. That's a pretty good return on investment for a team that was a couple rim bounces away from beating this year's eventual champions.

These odds will definitely fluctuate over the next few weeks with all of the player movement and the draft this week (a week ago, who had the Lakers with the top odds?).

If you see something you like on the NBA board now at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** now is the time to pounce!

Sports on TV Highlights

7:00 pm	**MLB Baseball** Philadelphia Phillies at Washington Nationals	NBC Sports Philadelphia
2:00 pm	**College World Series** Louisville vs. Auburn	ESPN
3:00 pm	**Women's World Cup** Italy vs. Brazil	FOX Sports 1
3:00 pm	**Women's World Cup** Jamaica vs. Australia	FOX Sports 2
7:00 pm	**College World Series** Vanderbilt vs. Mississippi State	ESPN

National League East betting breakdown

The surprisingly slow start of Bryce Harper in Philadelphia is the elephant in the room in any NL East discussion. Harper's stats are actually worse this season than in Washington last year. Through the weekend, his batting average had dropped from .249 in 2018 to .247 in 2019, his on-base percentage from .393 to .356, and his slugging percentage from .496 to .464. (In 2015, that stat line for "the next Mickey Mantle" was .330, .460, and .649.)

Plus, MLB offense is way up this year. With an aerodynamically friendly baseball, in a new home ballpark that was supposed to juice his power stats, Harper's decline is even worse than it seems. If he starts trending the right way, the Mets will be unlikely to catch the Phils from behind.

"The Mets clearly don't have playoff-caliber pitching. Team ERA has been in the bottom third of the NL for weeks. That's a big reason the team's games are 37-27-7 to the Over this season.

"Atlanta has been in great form of late, against an admittedly soft schedule. The Braves were 18-20 on May 9. They entered the Mets' series on runs of 9-1 and 24-10.

For now, the market is bullish on the Braves, bearish on the boys in blue and orange.

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AFTER PHILLIES COLLAPSE, IT'S YOUR MOVE, MATT KLENTAK

Phillies GM Matt Klentak has to make some moves if the Phillies want to win the NL East, writes Glen Macnow. GETTY IMAGES

THE SPORTS PROFESSOR

GLEN MACNOW
@RealGlenMacnow

If the disastrous weekend series in Atlanta proved anything, it's that the Phillies don't have enough talent to compete against the Braves.

It was humiliating. Sandwiched around a comeback win Saturday were two putrid losses that linger like stink bombs. Sunday's 15-1 blowout needed a mercy rule. The Phils were sloppy and listless from the first pitch, showing an inexplicable lack of motivation on a day that had dawned with them just 1.5 games back in the East.

For sure, manager Gabe Kapler placed his club at a horrible disadvantage with his "Three Stooges" strategy of Vince Velasquez, Cole Irvin and Jerad Eickhoff. The Braves had 33 total bases in seven innings off that trio.

The Skipper might as well have forfeited.

There's a related question here, a big enchilada no one has answered. Why didn't $25 million man Jake Arrieta — on normal rest — step up to start the most important game of the season?

If it was Kapler's decision to save Arrieta for Monday in Washington, that's a strong case of manager misfeasance. If it was Arrieta begging off, that's another example of a selfish player not buying into the team's greater needs (hello, Pat Neshek). The one-time Cy Young winner should have demanded the ball.

But there's a larger problem here. The Braves are a superior team. One look through their young lineup makes it apparent they're only likely to get better in coming years.

Phils GM Matt Klentak had a terrific offseason, adding J.T. Realmuto, Jean Segura, Bryce Harper (yeah, we're still waiting...) and Andrew McCutchen. It is not coincidental that the recent downturn coincides with McCutchen's season-ending injury.

Give Klentak credit as well for stealing Jay Bruce from the Mariners for the cost of a bag of beans.

But right now, all of that means nothing. The Braves' bright long-term future makes it more imperative that the Phillies aim to win this season. Klentak's franchise is faltering and he needs to act immediately — not two weeks from now — to rescue it.

The boys in red pinstripes could use outfield help and a few bullpen arms. But even more urgent is reinforcement for the starting rotation.

Other than the surprise that has been Zach Eflin, no one has pitched to potential. The 2019 Aaron Nola looks like the 2009 Cole Hamels. Arrieta, at 33, is stealing Bill Gates-level money as a fourth starter. Young Nick Pivetta has been alternately brilliant and bust. After that, it's just glorified batting practice.

This can't go on. Klentak has to make a move, preferably before Friday, when the Velasquez-Eickhoff-Irvin torture tour comes up again.

Sure, it's challenging to negotiate trades in mid-June, as most teams are assessing whether they're still in the hunt. But failing to do so now would be the equivalent of Klentak standing atop Citizens Bank Park waving an enormous white flag.

You've likely heard the trade candidates' names if you follow baseball. But here's a solid list: Trevor Bauer, Corey Kluber, Robbie Ray, Zach Greinke, Matthew Boyd, Marcus Stroman and Madison Bumgarner.

Some have health issues, troublesome contracts or warts (Greinke, for one, doesn't like to pitch before big crowds). Some may not be available. Some may require a return the Phils can't meet.

But, hey, it's a start. If this season is to be saved, the much-lauded GM needs to import an arm or two that's better than the slop that embarrassed this franchise and its loyal fans over the weekend.

Your move, Matt Klentak.

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Property contained in the following units located at 3503 B Street will be sold via online auction at STORAGETREASURES.COM on June 25, 2019 at 11:00 AM., to the highest bidder to satisfy the owners lien for rent under 73 p.s. 1901 et. seq. Auction is with reserve. 21st Century Storage reserves the right to set the minimum bids and refuse bids. Cash or credit card ONLY. Contents must be paid for 6/25 and removed within 48 hours.

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Charlene Rosario C217
Michael Vega D304
Martha Arias D324
Oscar Ramos E424
Tyhierra Jett F522
Clayton Lighty F536
Miranda Williams G602
Ricardo Ortega H23
Chontay Ervin L147
Juan Duque M237
Jazmin Tilghman O499
Anthony Spells O520
Omar Castro Robles R614
Cathy Garrett-Davis S118
Eddie Casanova Roman S160
Nilza Gonzalez T800
Latecha Bush A101

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell the contents of leased spaces to satisfy Extra Space's lien at the location indicated: **1240 Chester Pike Crum Lynne, PA 19022, June 24th 2019** at **11:15am**

Unit 2245 - Jonathan Foxx - bags, bins, dresser, Unit 3019 - DJuana Queen - household items, Unit 3147 - Sarah Fryson - clothes, Unit 2005 - Aniyah Wright - household items, Unit 2006 - Melissa Teoflak - household items, Unit 3067 - Kenya Leatherberry - clothes, Unit 2251 - April Elise - household items, Unit 3167 - Rashidah Woods-Byrd - household items, Unit 3241 - Kendrick Hines - household items, Unit 2216A - Jerina Ratchett - household items, Unit 1161 - Kia Williams - household items, Unit 1183 - Michael Devine - household items, Unit 1315 - Free Spirit Jones - household items

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

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US men kick off 2019 Gold Cup tonight

The USMNT has plenty to prove at this year's tournament.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

While the women's team dominates at the 2019 Women's World Cup, the United States men's national soccer team kicks off its Gold Cup campaign tonight against Guyana (10:30 p.m. ET, FS1).

It's the first real opportunity for the men's squad to prove that they are still a force on the international stage after missing the 2018 World Cup.

The U.S. hadn't missed the World Cup since 1986, prompting sweeping changes throughout the program following a horrific qualifying campaign — most notably the dismissal of manager Jurgen Klinsmann.

In his place has stepped Gregg Berhalter, who made his name managing the MLS' Columbus Crew. He's attempted to inject new life into the program, which has failed to make any real noise on the international stage.

While ruling CONCACAF (the governing body of North American soccer), alongside Mexico, the U.S. has done little on the world stage. They've made the Round of 16 just three times since the 1934 World Cup.

At the Gold Cup, Berhalter has brought a mix of familiar faces and new, developing stars into the fold as the United States look to get back on track.

Here is what you need to know about the U.S. at the Gold Cup:

Weston McKennie (8) and Christian Pulisic (10) headline the young talent featured on the United States. GETTY IMAGES

WHAT IS THE GOLD CUP?

The Gold Cup is a tournament held by CONCACAF once every two years to decide the champion of teams from North and Central America, along with the Carribean.

This is the first time that 16 teams are in the finals, compared to 12 in the previous 14 installments of the competition. Four groups of four teams play each other once during the group stage. The top two teams from each group move on to the quarterfinals in a knockout stage that ends with the championship on July 7 in Chicago.

WHO ARE THE FAVORITES?

As always, the United States and Mexico are the favorites to take the Gold Cup crown.

The U.S. has won the tournament six times and are the defending champions, having defeated Jamaica in the 2017 final.

Mexico has won seven Gold Cups and will be keen on showing their loss to the Jamaicans in the semifinals two years ago was just a fluke. After all, they actually made the 2018 World Cup but could not shake the Round-of-16 jinx that saw them eliminated in the first knockout stage for the seventh consecutive time.

WHAT DO THE GROUPS LOOK LIKE?

GROUP A
Mexico
Canada
Martinique
Cuba

GROUP B
Costa Rica
Haiti
Bermuda
Nicaragua

GROUP C
Curacao
El Salvador
Honduras
Jamaica

GROUP D
Guyana
Panama
Trinidad & Tobago
USA

WHO TO WATCH ON USA

All eyes will be on Hershey, Pennsylvania, native Christian Pulisic, the American midfielder who recently joined Premier League powerhouse Chelsea.

Pulisic will be making his first appearance at a major tournament for the Americans, where he'll be joined by other promising talents like Schalke's Weston McKinnie and former New Zealand product Tyler Boyd.

Jozy Altidore also returns to the side, the American striker making his first appearance in a U.S. kit since the team's elimination from World Cup qualifying in a loss to Trinidad & Tobago two years ago.

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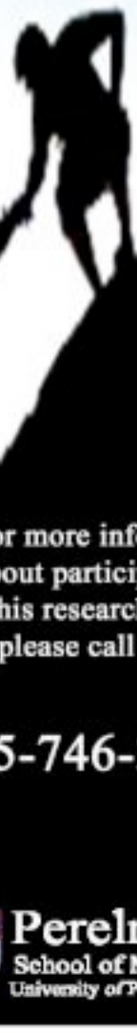

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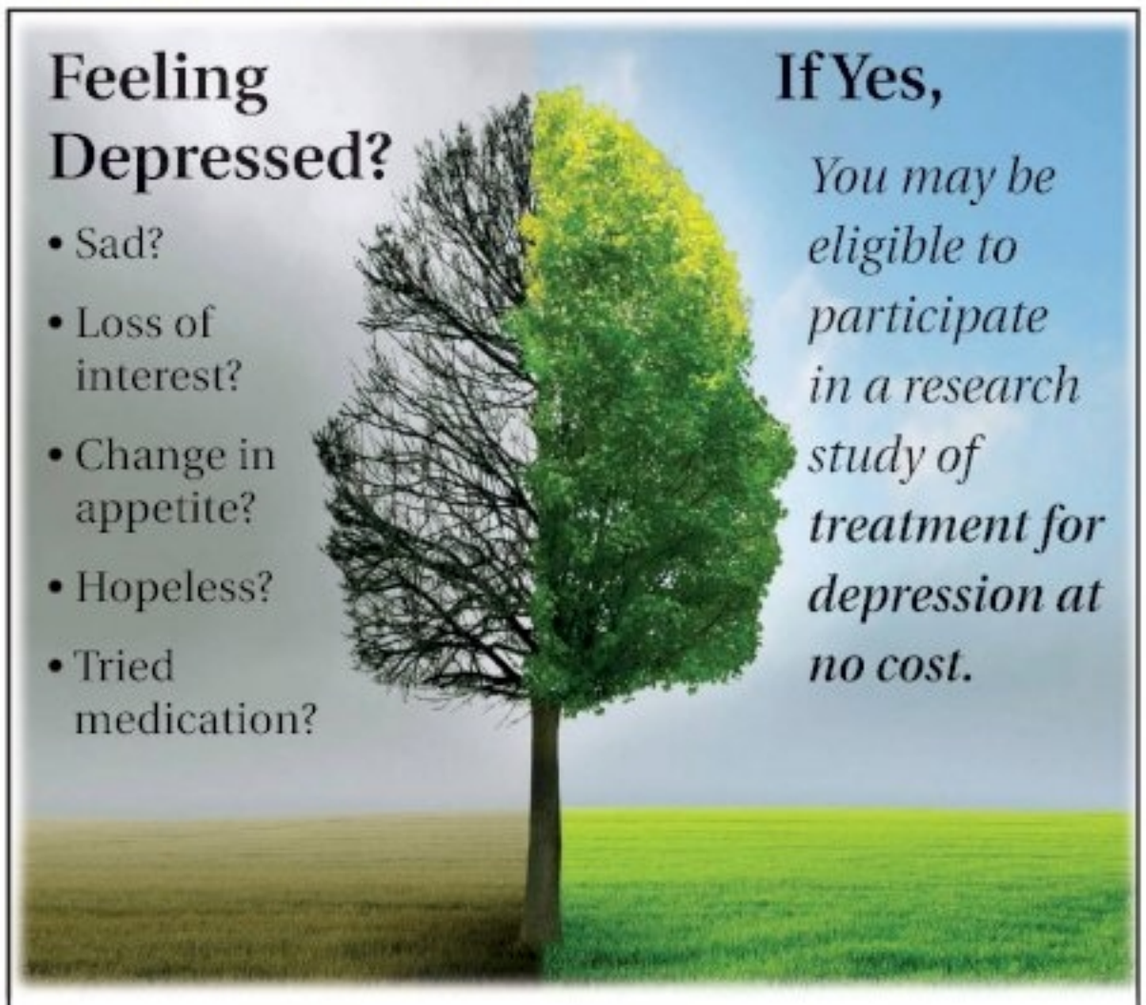
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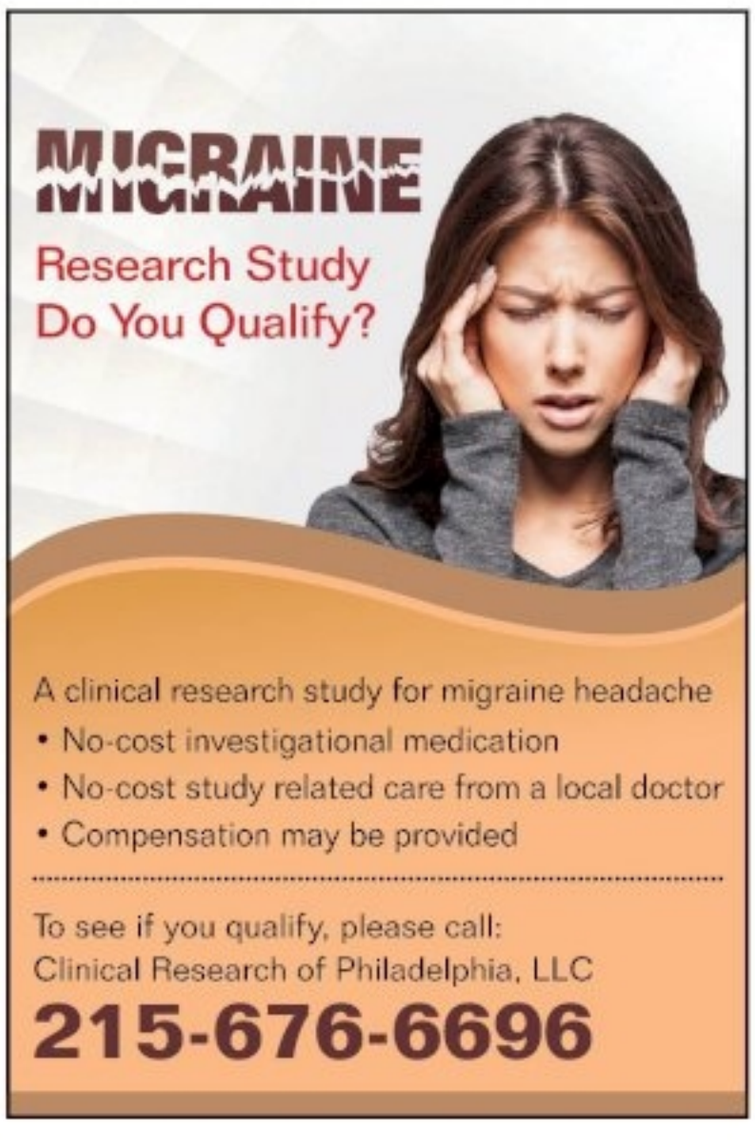
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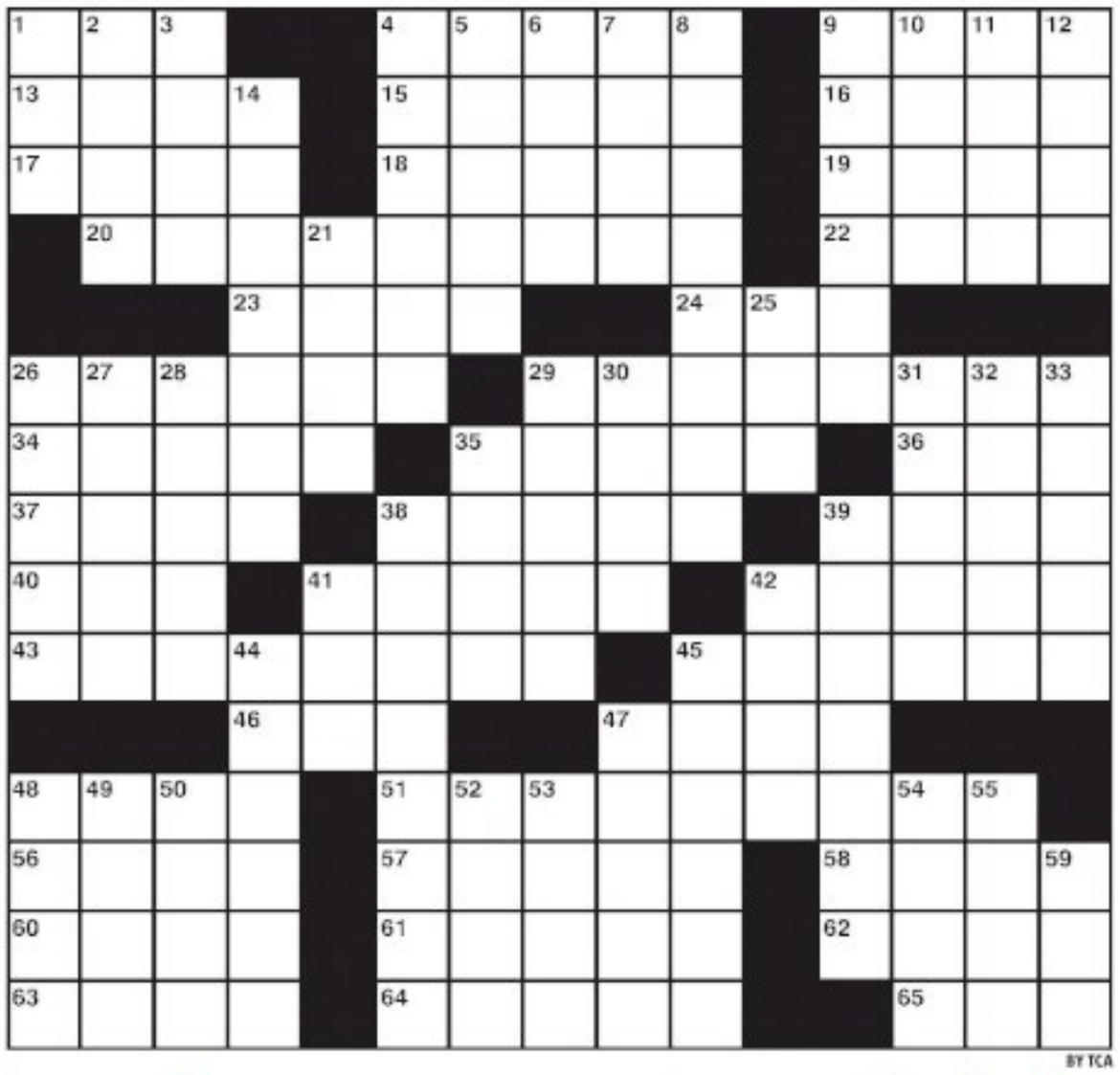
40 Stealing or coveting
41 Constructed
42 "Wonderful!"
43 Portions
45 Stout
46 Bell's monogram
47 Kitchen recess
48 Leaping amphibian
51 Pay __ to; heed
56 Crazy as a __
57 Elementary school grade
58 Ginger cookie
60 Tool with a blade
61 Bisect
62 One listed in a will
63 Actress Amanda
64 Come in
65 Devious

DOWN
1 Piece of wood
2 Boatman's items
3 Comic bit
4 Request for help
5 Bum
6 Latvia's capital
7 TV's "How __ Your Mother"
8 __ out; diminishing gradually
9 Scampi
10 Sightseeing trip
11 Additionally
12 "__ there, done that"
14 Shadowboxed
21 __ the way; pioneer
25 Is __ to; probably will
26 Accumulate
27 Film
28 __ to; because of
29 Spinnaker & jib
30 Kind of trap
31 African nation
32 Rebuff
33 Tale
35 Diamonds, e.g.
38 Get a tan
39 Istanbul language
41 Panhandle
42 Flue residue
44 "Attractive" metal
45 Contemplate
47 Courage
48 Envelope part
49 __ away; galloped off
50 Leak out slowly
52 Other __; besides
53 Lean
54 Uno and eins
55 Tack
59 Use a crowbar



BY TCA

metro.us/wordsearch

U	D	T	T	S	G	N	I	W	L
E	F	I	L	E	T	D	I	E	N
T	E	S	E	L	T	A	E	B	O
M	C	C	A	R	T	N	E	Y	N
W	P	H	A	R	R	I	S	O	N
J	C	Z	U	R	D	L	I	W	E
E	E	G	A	R	D	S	Y	U	L
V	V	T	K	P	W	N	Y	U	R
M	S	I	N	G	E	R	A	U	N
F	Z	J	L	U	Z	P	N	B	S

Band
Beatles
Harrison
Jet
Lennon
Let Die
Life
Live
McCartney
Paul
Run
Singer
Starr
Wild
Wings

metro.us/wander

Category: Musician

	N	O	S
R	O	E	I
G	E	G	R
	H	A	R

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	8	6	1			9	7	
7	4				2	8		
9								4
	5		7			4		2
4			8	5	1			9
6		3			4		8	
3								1
		4	3				6	8
	6	2			7	3	9	

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■	I	R	K	■	R	A	M	B	O	■	E	C	H	O
F	R	E	E	■	O	C	E	A	N	■	S	H	I	N
L	O	N	G	■	A	T	T	R	A	C	T	I	V	E
U	N	O	■	C	R	O	S	S	■	L	A	C	E	S
■	■	U	S	H	E	R	■	■	J	O	T	■	■	■
R	A	N	C	I	D	■	■	J	O	S	E	P	H	■
U	N	C	A	P	■	H	O	U	S	E	■	R	O	T
S	N	I	T	■	N	U	D	G	E	■	K	E	N	O
T	I	N	■	W	O	R	D	S	■	R	A	C	E	S
■	E	G	O	I	S	T	■	■	R	E	L	A	Y	S
■	■	■	P	R	E	■	■	L	O	S	E	R	■	■
S	P	R	E	E	■	B	L	E	A	T	■	I	D	A
M	A	I	N	S	T	R	E	A	M	■	S	O	I	L
O	N	C	E	■	W	E	A	V	E	■	H	U	G	E
G	E	A	R	■	O	W	N	E	D	■	E	S	S	■

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